

a little flat abscess, containing a small quantity of pus, which was entirely exterior to the fluid in the pericardium. The remainder of both lungs was free from disease, though somewhat infiltrated with serum; the left lung was a good deal compressed by the distended pericardium. There was no evidence of disease in the abdominal cavity.

This patient possessed another feature of interest, in a surgical point of view, growing out of an injury of the right hip, received three years ago last November. The patient had not been able, since that accident, to bear his entire weight upon the injured limb, and had been obliged to walk with some artificial support. Moreover, those who had examined the case were not agreed upon the nature of the injury. The opportunity now offered of removing all doubts upon this point was not to be neglected, and an examination revealed a *transverse fracture of the cervix femoris*, close to the head of the bone. There had never been any displacement of the fragments, and consequently the limb retained its proper length. Union had taken place by strong bands of ligament, forming an artificial joint of limited motion; motion was also present in the true joint.

In addition to what has been already said in the previous part of this report, I may say that the headache, which was the patient's first symptom, had been coming on gradually for about one week before he came to my office. I am unable to trace the pericarditis to any assignable cause, different from the usual causes of "a bad cold." For aught I know, the ossification of the cartilages might have been a predisposing cause; he never had rheumatism.

At what stage of the disease the exocardial sound commenced, is not known, as, unfortunately, I was not sufficiently attentive in this particular during the early part of his sickness. I certainly heard it, in a careless way, for more than a week before I made any minute of it. At each visit I heard it *snap, snap*, with each inspiration, for many days; afterwards it occurred at the beginning of each expiration; and, finally, it became double, *to and fro*, during inspiration and expiration. Whatever might have been the *rationale* of this sound towards the close of the disease, it was not properly a friction sound in the commencement.

Elmira, Chemung Co., N. Y., March 29th, 1860.

VIENNA LYING-IN AND FOUNDLING HOSPITALS.*

[Translated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, from the *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Practische Heilkunde*.]

BY O. D. PALMER, M.D., PA.

THIS praiseworthy work, including the reports of the two previous years, is divided into six parts. Part 1st relates to the Lying-

* Medical Report of the Royal, Imperial Lying-in and Foundling Hospitals at Vienna. Published by the Directors of the Institutions for Lying-in Women and Foundlings. Vienna: 1858. Analysis, by Dr. Edward Nussu.

In Hospital; Part 2d, to the Foundling Hospital; Part 3d, to the Institute for Vaccination; Part 4th, to the preservation of the present foundling pathological preparations; Parts 5th and 6th, to the formation of graphic and statistical tables.

The first section reviews the results of the Lying-in Hospital. From this we learn, that of the whole 7,285 births, occurring in the years indicated (among which were 1,460 so-called street births, and 290 of a separate division), 283 lying-in women died in childbed. Examining the particular cases, we find there were 46 abortions, or untimely births; 375 premature births; 93 twin-births; 51 face presentations; 2 forehead presentations (stirnlagens); 138 pelvic presentations; 77 shoulder or "oblique" presentations (quer-und schief lagen); in 27 cases the umbilical cord came down first; in 11 cases the extremities came with the head. Labor was prolonged in the second stage, in 17 cases; in the third and fourth stages, in 91 cases. *Puerperal mania* was observed in 4 of the women; *epilepsy* in 3; *eclampsia* in 11. *Placenta prævia* occurred 6 times, *ruptura uteri* once. *Metrorrhagia* was treated in 49 patients, in the first clinic; in 83, in the second clinic; and in 12, in the separate division.

In the enumeration of operations resorted to, we perceive that the 153 forceps cases were so divided, that one occurred in every 33 births in the first clinic; whilst, in the second, there was only 1 to every 133 births. The other operations, the indications for which depended less upon individual views of the character of the cases, seem to have been adopted in both clinics in equal numbers. Thus, for example, turning by the feet was resorted to 34 times in the first clinic, and 33 times in the second clinic. As respects the relative health of the women in childbed, the last year was more favorable than the previous one. The proportion of mortality relative to the puerperal process amounted to 7.22 per cent. The proportion of mortality, to the number of births, was 3.77; whilst this proportion, compared with the attacks of disease, rose to 53.80 per cent.

The first section concludes with an examination in relation to the new born. These were 3,613 boys, and 2,553 girls, born alive. The stillborn (185 boys and 150 girls) consisted mostly of premature and feeble-lived children.

The part concerning the doings in the Foundling institution, is reported more extensively, and with much particularity. It examines the children in the first place, then the nurses, then both together in respect to the movements of the same, and lastly the individual and remarkable forms of disease.

The largest number of receptions, and of diseases, and the most unfavorable percentage of mortality, occurred in the month of March. The greatest number of fatal cases arose from innate feebleness, *tabes* and *diarrhœa*. The last, the *diarrhœa*, reached its

greatest virulence in the present year, affording a mortality of 80.86 per cent.

Interesting for reference is the fact, that, of 26 cases of congenital syphilis, 23 proved fatal. The writer finds these figures substantiated, by his individual experience, as heretofore published in the *Zeitschrift*, on the occasion of reviewing "Bok's Syphilization of Children." The surgical diseases, with the operations, and the observations on anomalies of formation, are somewhat confounded, indeed, but contain so much that is readable, that we readily forget, in consideration of this, the want of systematic order in their arrangement. The great crowding of children in the institution was a fruitful source of gangrene, particularly in the month of December, 1856, when the number of sick nurslings was unusually increased, and the entire attendance of two, and at times three nurslings had to be given up to one nurse.

The third part, relating to the Vaccine Institution, is prepared with much care. It gives us much pleasure to perceive with what scientific skill all is directed in this institution; every important observation noted, and statistics obtained thereby that may be called, in truth, reliable. We learn by the report of the vaccine inspector, that, in the entire year, there were vaccinated 699, with effect, and 28 were re-vaccinated. Of the last number, but 11 took effect. This number, compared with the great number received (8,321), is very small, and the reason must be found in the fact that nurslings were admitted of very feeble and consumptive constitutions, unfit to be vaccinated; and a large number who at the time of their reception (nine days old) were wholly sound and well-nourished children, but after a few days sickened with *stomatitis*, *diarrhœa* and *abscess*. Here have been assembled the usual and unusual symptoms of kinpock vaccination, as performed at the end of twelve months. In the month of July, three children were tried with original lymph. This vaccine virus took effect in *one* only of the three (2 pustules from 6 insertions) children, and it assumed, on the tenth day, the usual appearance of pustules, from which, afterwards, two children were vaccinated, with perfect success. The two children vaccinated without effect, were afterwards tried with the old virus of the institution, and were both affected, proving the experience of others, that original lymph, in its first transfer to man, does not readily "take," or, to a certainty, is less liable to be successful, than humanized lymph. This new generation of lymph was marked in the Protocol, and henceforth, therefore, the institution will propagate the lymph of two different origins.

The numerous cases of erysipelas, following vaccination, observed in the two previous years, increased the present year, and in their course were still more unfavorable than before. The mode of living, in the institute, and its occasional over-filling, are assign-

ed as causes of this particular sequence. This would seem to be the most reasonable inference, as in private practice the kinepock-erysipelas is very uncommon, at least in my practice; for in over 1000 vaccinations in the last fifteen years, I have not encountered a single instance.

In conclusion, there are in the museum of the institute for Foundlings, 61 pathological preparations, mostly of unusual interest, which, considering that the collection was only commenced in 1854, is a very valuable and instructive one.

It is in matters like this that we recognize the active and enterprising spirit of men of science, talent, and energy, who, impelled by a sense of the magnitude of their gifts, are willing to let nothing be lost that can become of importance to the medical practitioner, to a sanitary board, or to the statistician.

Reports of Medical Societies.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL IMPROVEMENT. BY FRANCIS MINOT, M.D., SECRETARY.

MARCH 26th.—*Fracture of the Skull; Grave Symptoms; Recovery.* Dr. MORLAND read the following account of the case, which was communicated, at his request, by Dr. J. D. MILLER, U. S. Navy, now Resident Surgeon at the Navy Yard, Charlestown, where the accident occurred.

“On the 14th of February last, F. M., aged 17 years, was engaged, in a machine shop, with others, endeavoring to replace a large strap or belt upon the drum from which it had slipped. He was upon a platform, 17 feet from the floor, and the strap becoming entangled with an iron brace, the latter was wrenched from its fastenings, and striking him with great violence, hurled him from the platform. The evidence of the bystanders differs as to the place where the iron struck him, but it is supposed that his head, as he fell, came in contact with the corner of a large box, containing iron, upon the floor, as some of his hair was found upon it. He was picked up insensible, and carried to his father's house, and, upon being examined, presented the following condition. Extreme pallor of the surface and flaccidity of the muscles; pulse almost imperceptible; blood oozing from the nose; a distinct fracture and depression of the os frontis, over the left eye, about two and a half inches in diameter; integuments over depressed part loose and sacculated to the touch, and containing fluid; frontal ridge badly comminuted; eye protruding from the socket, and specks of blood starting from under the lids; pupils widely dilated; after a short time, slightly returning consciousness. No other injury was discovered, except a flesh wound, three inches long, on the right leg. About an ounce of brandy was administered, diluted with water, which was violently ejected from the stomach ten minutes afterwards, with nearly a quart of very dark, imperfectly coagulated blood. Soon after this, his clothes were taken off, and he was carried up stairs and placed upon a bed. He was then immediately seized with a severe convulsion, which lasted about a minute, and made it necessary for two persons